

In re OREN ET AL., Application No. 10/042,836
Amendment C

REMARKS

In response to the non-final Office action mailed January 21, 2005, please enter the amendments and consider remarks presented herein. Reconsideration and/or further prosecution of the application is respectfully requested. No new matter is added herein.

Applicants appreciate the Office's statements and candor, but Applicants also remind the Office that it is alright to allow an application when proper.

Applicants believe that the pending claims presented herein are allowable over the prior art of record, especially if the Office has complied with MPEP § 706 and 37 CFR 1.104(c)(2) and has cited the best prior art references available. As the prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests all the claim limitations of the pending claims, then all pending claims are believed to be allowable over the best prior art available, and Applicants request the claims be allowed and the application pass to issuance.

Claims 1-26, 28, and 31-32 stand canceled. Applicants believe claims 27, 29, and 32-39 are allowable, as the prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests all the recited limitations, and the original filed specification supports all of the pending claims.

Claim 27 is amended herein to more clearly define the nested operation performed in one embodiment in response to the nested indication. Support for these claim amendments are clearly found in the original filed application. For example, page 13 line 22 to page 14, line 2, discusses one embodiment.

Nested flag 401 typically indicates whether or not a nested operation is to be performed. In one embodiment, if a nested operation is to be performed, a predetermined number of lookup words 430 are produced using data item 403 and a predetermined set of decoder fields typically stored in a data structure (e.g., data structure 500 illustrated in FIG. 5A) or generated via a mechanism (e.g., control logic 211 of FIG. 2A, lookup word generator 310 of FIG. 3, shift register 520 of FIG. 5B, etc.) Typically, lookup word 430 includes a decoder

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field 432 to identify which virtual associative memory (e.g., which set and/or subsets of associative memory entries) to search based on data item 403.

Figure 6A also illustrates in process blocks 614, 616, 618 a loop for sequencing through the decoder fields and generating the plurality of lookup words with the data item, and in response to identifying the nested condition in process block 604. The prior art of record, including Uzun (US Patent 6,606,681), neither teaches nor suggests an apparatus configured to generate a predetermined sequence of multiple lookup words for a particular data item extracted from a piece of information in response to a nested flag indication signifying to generate such a sequence, where the acquired piece of information includes the data item and the nested flag indication. For at least these reasons, claim 27 is believed to be allowable.

Claim 29 is amended herein, and depends from independent claim 27. Claim 29 is amended herein to include that the lookup results and a lookup indication are forwarded to another device or component, with the lookup indication signifying whether or not the nested operation was performed. Support is provided at least by original claim 29 and 30, by FIG. 6B, especially process blocks 652 and 656, and their corresponding discussion, and by FIG. 6C, especially process blocks 672 and 680. Claim 29 is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons presented for allowance of independent claim 27, which includes that these elements are not produced, so they cannot be forwarded to another device or component.

New claim 32 is added to specifically state that the associative memory is a content-addressable memory, with support provided at least by original claim 14. New claim 33 is added to recite using a shift register to generate the predetermined sequence of decoder fields, with support provided at least by FIG. 5B and its corresponding discussion. Claim 34 is added include means for performing a single lookup operation on the extracted data item in response to the nested flag indication signifying not to perform the nested operation, with support provided at least by FIG. 6A, especially process block 608 performed in response to it not being a nested condition as determined in process block 604, else the multiple lookup words are generated in process blocks 614-618. Dependent claims 32-34 are believed to be allowable for at least the

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reasons presented for allowance of independent claim 27, as well as the prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests these further limitations for at least the reasons previously presented herein.

The method claim set of claims 35-37 is added herein, with support for these claims provided at least being that for claims 27, 32 and 33. Claim 35 is believed to be allowable, as the prior art of record, including Uzun, neither teaches nor suggests an apparatus configured to generate a predetermined sequence of multiple lookup words for a particular data item in response to a nested flag indication signifying to generate such a sequence. For at least these reasons, claims 35-37 are believed to be allowable.

The computer-readable media format claim set of claims 38-39 is added herein, with support for these claims provided at least being that for claims 27 and 32. Claim 38 is believed to be allowable, as the prior art of record, including Uzun, neither teaches nor suggests an apparatus configured to generate a predetermined sequence of multiple lookup words for a particular data item in response to a nested flag indication signifying to generate such a sequence, where the acquired piece of information includes the data item and the nested flag indication. For at least these reasons, claims 38-39 are believed to be allowable.

For at least these reasons, all pending claims are believed to be allowable, and the prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests all the claim limitations.

Finally, although Uzun, US Patent 6,606,681, is currently owned by the same Assignee, Applicants currently believe that the invention of the present application was made prior to the date Assignee acquired the rights to US Patent 6,606,681. Applicants have made no representation in this matter to remove Uzun as a prior art reference based on this current common ownership. However, Applicants expressly reserve the right to make such a representation should Applicant's become aware of information leading to a different conclusion.

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Finally, Applicants believe that a one-month extension of time is required, and the requisite fee is submitted herewith. Additionally, the Commissioner is hereby generally authorized under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3) to treat this communication or any future communication in this or any related application filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefore, and the Commissioner is hereby specifically authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 501430 for any fee that may be due in connection with such a request for an extension of time. Moreover, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fee due any under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and § 1.17 associated with this communication or any future communication in this or any related application filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501430.

Respectfully submitted,
The Law Office of Kirk D. Williams

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By



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